

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of April 17, 2008 issued in relation to the present Patent Application, the Applicant submits Amendments to the claims, and the below Remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 19-23, 25, 29, 30, 34-47, 50 and 52 are presented for examination. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Regarding Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6, 12-15, 19-33, 49 and 54 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (US 6,604,684).

Claims 7, 17, 18, 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Umata (US 6,520,412).

Claims 8-11 and 64-75 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt.

Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Kumar.

Claims 55-63 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Novak (US 5,497,314).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 16, and 34-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein all the limitations from former claim 16. Independent claim 1, as amended, and all claims dependent on claim 1, are therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.


Very respectfully,
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